

Without conceding the Examiner's characterization of the claimed invention, Applicants believe that a thorough search of the relevant art for one species will require substantial consideration of the art relevant to the other species. Species I, II and III all relate to ways in which a common problem can be solved, namely, to avoid execution of an adjustment mode while a print job is running. Species IV and V can be used in conjunction with Species II and III. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1-27 be examined together in the present application.

If Applicants are required to file separate applications in view of the requirement, separate search and examination by separate Examiners may lead to duplicate work and inconsistent results. Thus, Applicants submit that it would be administratively and economically preferable to search all of the species together. Further, the making of an election of species requirement is not mandatory in all instances where it is possible to do so. Rather, the Examiner may use his discretion and choose not to require an election of species where circumstances warrant. It is believed that such is the case in the subject application. Applicants request that the election of species requirement be withdrawn.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Species I, represented by Figure 10. It is respectfully submitted that at least Claims 1-3 read on the elected species.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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